

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-03 L-03 INR-07 SP-02 SSO-00

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DRAFTED BY EA/J:RMDEMING:BB
APPROVED BY EA:MR. ZURHELLEN
PM/ISO:MR. SCOTT
EA/J:MR. LAMBERTSON

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P 012141Z AUG 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 182309

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MARR, JA

SUBJECT: PROPOSED IST MAW MOVE TO OKINAWA

REF: TOKYO 10415

1. WE BELIEVE THAT CO-LOCATION OF HQS IST MAW AT SUKERAN WITH OTHER MARINES HEADQUARTERS MAKES OPERATIONAL SENSE AND SHOULD RELIEVE SOME OF THE POPULATION PRESSURE AT IWAKUNI. DOD ASSURES US THAT THIS MOVE IS NOT THE FIRST STEP IN THE EVENTUAL RELOCATION OF TACTICAL AIRCRAFT FROM IWAKUNI TO OKINAWA. WE HAVE RESERVATIONS, HOWEVER, ABOUT TIMING OF MOVE AND THE PROPOSED USE OF HANBY AIR FIELD.

2. IN RESPONDING TO USFJ WE SUGGEST THAT, IN ADDITION TO YOUR ANALYSIS OF POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS, EMBASSY EMPHASIZE:
(1) NEED FOR EARLY CONSULTATIONS WITH GOJ; (2) NEED FOR

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FLEXIBILITY ON TIMING OF MOVE AND DETAILS OF

IMPLEMENTATION IN ORDER TO BE RESPONSIVE TO ADJUSTMENTS
THAT GOJ MAY PROPOSE, INCLUDING POSSIBLE SUGGESTION
THAT TRANSFER BE DELAYED UNTIL AFTER COMPLETION OF
EXPO 75; AND (3) LIKELY PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH USE OF
HANBY AND NECESSITY FOR THOROUGH EXPLORATION OF
ALTERNATIVES.

3. DOD APPEARS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD MARINE PROPOSAL
BUT HAS NOT STUDIED IT IN DETAIL. THE PENTAGON HAS
INFORMALLY TOLD US THAT INTERNAL DOD APPROVAL, MUCH LESS
CONSULTATIONS WITH GOJ, WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT TO
COMPLETE BY SEPTEMBER 1 AND THAT A FEW MONTHS DELAY
SHOULD NOT PRESENT THE MARINES WITH UNMANAGEABLE
PROBLEMS. THE PROPOSAL HAS NOT REACHED DOD FOR ACTION,
HOWEVER, AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO FORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH
STATE. PLEASE KEEP US ADVISED OF THE PROGRESS OF YOUR
DISCUSSIONS WITH COMUSJ AND CINCPAC, AND WE WILL KEEP YOU
ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS HERE. INGERSOLL

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